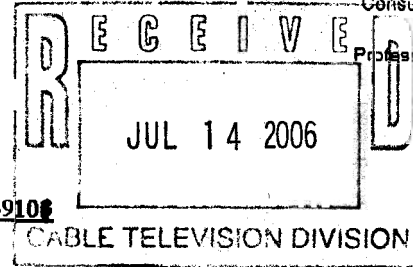


*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**House of Representatives**State House, Boston 02133-1020*

VINCENT A. PEDONE  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
ROOM 540  
TEL. (617) 722-2090

Chairman:

Consumer Protection  
and  
Professional LicensureSENT VIA FAX 617-345-9101

July 13, 2006

Ms. Judith Judson  
Chairperson  
Department of Telecommunication and Energy  
One South Station  
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Chairperson Judson,

I am writing to express my opposition to the pending petition submitted by Verizon having to do with changes in the cable television franchising process. I am not in support of Verizon's petition to change the current process because it will establish a two tiered system of cable television licensing which will result in unfair competition. The current cable television franchising process has been in place for many years and is essential to make these franchises accountable to the municipalities in which they do business. The existing municipal agreements with a cable television franchise already establish a level of predictability and expectation from the new applicants. Based on this information, a new cable television franchise can enter into negotiations and make a sound business decision based on existing information.

Municipalities have demonstrated that they are willing to encourage more cable television competition because it is in the best interest of their residents. After careful consideration, the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) stands in opposition to Verizon's position and supports the present licensing requirements. Municipalities have been and are willing to negotiate a fair franchise agreement with cable providers in the area such as Verizon or Comcast. Verizon has signed several cable television franchise agreements and is in the process of negotiating several more with other municipalities.

I do not believe that changing the current cable television franchising licensing process is in the best interest of the municipality or the consumer. The current system is one that has been utilized by citizens of the Commonwealth for many years and should not be changed to satisfy a new cable television provider.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Vincent A. Pedone  
State Representative- 15<sup>th</sup> Worcester District